

Why Shoreland Management Ordinances Are Important

By Sam Martin,
Water Management Specialist

Quite often when lakeshore or riverfront property is purchased, the new owners are understandably very excited and have plans and dreams on how to build on it. These landowners usually have worked very hard to acquire the property and have been planning of this ownership for a long time. The plans usually include building a home or cabin as close to the shoreline as possible and clearing the vegetation to better enjoy the water resource. Often when landowners want to build or improve something on their property, they sometimes find there are local ordinances which may not allow them to build as close to the shoreline as they had planned and are advised not to remove trees and vegetation. This, of course, leads to some frustrations and discussions relating to the purpose of shoreland management ordinances.

In October, 2005 following some heavy rains, four residential structures on



the Lower Snake River learned why shoreland management is important and why structure setbacks from shorelines are required. These particular structures were built decades ago and very likely consistent with all local ordinances of that time. However, the standards of decades ago were not as stringent as the standards of today, and for good reason as these photos show. The heavy rains caused the banks to slump, give way and fall into the river, leaving little or no separation between these homes, garages and septic systems, and the edge of the riverbank. Costly corrective actions will be necessary to avoid continued erosion into the river and equally important to shore-up (no pun intended) the foundation site to keep the structures themselves from slumping into the river. Slumping riverbanks is not uncommon. Rivers routinely change their course and flow, which should help to answer the question as to why shoreland management ordinances, vegetative control and setbacks are important.

Pine County Junk Appliance and Scrap Metal Days

Get ready for Junk Days!

Pine County Junk Days will be held on May 6th, Pine City and May 20th Sandstone at the County Highway Garages. Appliances and scrap metal will be accepted for a nominal charge (\$5 per appliance, \$5 per pick up load of scrap metal).

At the 2005 collection events, County residents cleaned-up 1403 appliances, 4590 tires, and approximately 100 tons of scrap metal and old lawn mowers. Congratulations!

The real challenge with these scrap metal collection events is moving the old refrigerator from the ditch, vacant lot or from behind the garage to the collection site. Several area service clubs and cities sponsored a local collection routine where the club or city would physically collect the appliance and transport to the county collection site. Many area residents are not able to lift and transport old appliances, making the pro-

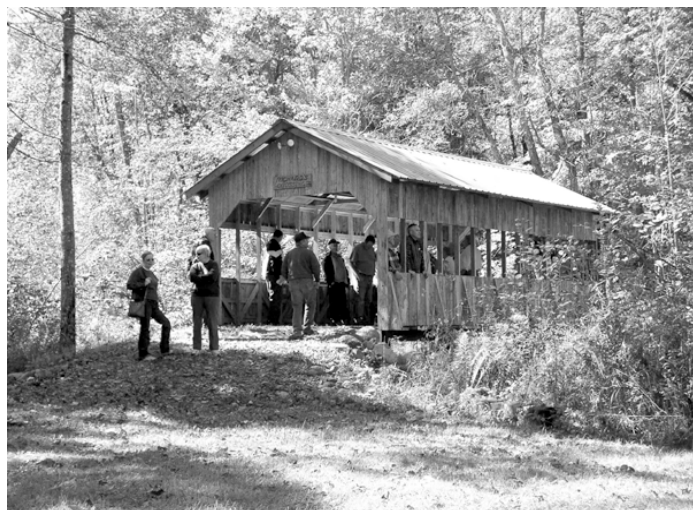
grams offered by cities and service clubs very useful.

Early notice is provided here to allow cities and townships, homeowners, service clubs and large volume disposers to plan for the event.

Pine County encourages all cities, county service clubs, neighborhood groups, townships and lakeshore associations to organize a "sweep" of their neighborhoods to collect all those stray appliances, scrap metal piles and tires and drop them off at Pine County appliance and scrap metal junk Days this spring!

Watch for more notices about Junk Days in April and May in all local newspapers.

If you have any questions, please contact the Pine County Planning, Zoning and Solid Waste Department at 629-5600 ext. 6701; 1-800-450-7463 ext. 6701, or (320) 245-6701.



Resource Tour draws good crowd

Pictured here are snapshots from the Fall Resource Tour held in September. The first photo is of Richard Berglund's covered bridge and the other is a group photo. Other stops that day included Roger Nelson's farming operation, Moffatt's Meat Market, Lovgren's Saw Mill, St. Croix State Park, and the Field of Dreams Airport.

We received many good comments about the tour. "Please accept our assessment that the recently concluded 2005 'Resource Tour' was a great success. All who had a part in the planning process should feel satisfaction that the public was well served. We extend our thanks and appreciation." – Michas & Alma Ohnstad



NELSONS NAMED OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONISTS

The Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) held their State Convention from December 4 – 6th in Bloomington. The convention featured a December 6th luncheon, sponsored by MASWCD with support from The Farmer Magazine, which honored outstanding conservationists from every SWCD in the state.

Roger and Judy Nelson of Hinckley were honored as the outstanding conservationists for Pine County at the luncheon.

"We're proud of the Nelsons for what

they've done in conserving our natural resources in our area," said William Saumer, supervisor of the Pine Soil and Water Conservation District, which nominated the Nelsons for the award. "It's great to be able to recognize the work they've done locally. They've provided a wonderful example for us by establishing numerous conservation practices to enhance water quality, pasture and manure management, and wildlife. Not only do the Nelsons continue to put in conservation practices, they also do a great job of maintaining their existing practices," he said.

Stream & Lake Monitors Workshop

Thursday, March 23 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Public Service Building, Mora (905 E. Forest. On Hwy. 23 east of stoplight; between Highway Dept. and lumber yard.)



For: lake and stream monitors, lake association members and others interested in surface water quality issues. This workshop is for YOU - if a citizen monitor or interested in the program.

The purpose of this workshop is to improve communications among lake and stream monitors, share local results, see how we connect into watershed and state wide monitoring projects, learn from each other, and share ideas on working together.

Speakers:

- **Barb Liukkonen**, University of Minnesota Extension Service and **Ed Doberstein**, Snake River Volunteer Monitor will present the 1st year results of *E. coli* monitoring that is underway in the Pine City area on the Snake River as part of a six-state research project.
- **Laurie Sovell**, MPCA Citizen Stream and Lake Monitor Program Coordinator will discuss how to become a volunteer, what can be done, and give some of the local program results.
- Time for discussion, sharing resources and ideas of shoreland projects and other water quality programs.

We hope you are interested in attending this session, tenth in a series. There is no charge. This program is sponsored by the PICKM Water Quality Team: local agencies in Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec and Mille Lacs Counties, including University of Minnesota Extension Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, county Zoning, county Public Health and the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, Water Division.

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Isanti County	Tim Anderson, County Zoning	763-689-5165 tim.anderson@co.isanti.mn.us
Chisago County	Jerry Spetzman, County Water Planner	651-213-0270 jpspetz@co.chisago.mn.us
Kanabec County	Kelly Osterdyk, Kanabec County SWCD	320-679-3982 kelly.osterdyk@mn.nacdnet.net
Mille Lacs County	Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs County SWCD	320-983-2160 susan.shaw@mn.nacdnet.net

O'REILLYS RECEIVE STATE FOREST STEWARD AWARD

John and Sandra O'Reilly of Hinckley were honored as the recipients of the state Forest Steward Award at a Dec. 5th luncheon at the MASWCD Convention. The O'Reilly's were nominated by Pine SWCD because of their dedication to forest management, and especially because of their dedication to educating landowners about forestry issues. John's weekly "Timber Talk" column has provided a major education avenue to the general public.





SWCD Projects

By Sam Martin, Water Management Specialist

Last September, Scott and Amy Saylor had natural shoreline restoration practices installed on their Cross Lake property. Biologs, native seed mixes, and native grass and flower seedlings were used for the restoration. Approximately 4200 square feet of shoreland was restored. This is the first shoreline restoration project in Pine County to use biologs. They were installed on 90 of the 120 feet of shoreline. The 12" biologs are made of densely packed coconut fibers wrapped with 2" x 2" outdoor netting. After some root pruning and hand digging, diagonally cut 2" x 4"s were driven in on both sides of the biologs to anchor them against the bank. To keep the logs from floating up, coir twine was tied to the 2" x 4"s. Existing natural vegetation was left in place. Herbicide was applied a few weeks prior to planting to get rid of nonnative species. The sprayed areas were then lightly tilled to create an open seedbed. A wetland edge native seed mix was planted in and around the biologs and on the biolog itself. The upland native seed mix was applied to the other areas that were tilled or had bare soil. A cover crop was also sown with the seed. Straw mulch



SAYLOR RESTORATION

was used to temporarily stabilize the soil. There were 360 native seedlings planted in the wet edge area. There were 1000 seedlings planted in the upland area. Maintenance like mowing, spot spraying, and hand weeding is often necessary to get the native vegetation established.

On 30 of the 120 feet of shoreline, rocks were placed so a small beach area could be located above it.

Using 25% of your shoreline for your needs and leaving 75% of it natural is a desirable outcome. The Saylor will be able to utilize their property and still restore most of it to its natural state. The biologs will provide wave protection until the natural vegetation becomes well established. The native grasses and flowers with two to three foot long roots will stabilize the soil when the biolog has deteriorated and is gone. The 25 foot buffer of native grasses and flowers will help filter out nutrients and sed-

iment as it travels down the hill and into the lake. The flowers and grasses will also make the area very attractive. The work was completed by Prairie Restorations. The Snake River Watershed Management Board contributed funds for the project.

If you have questions about this project or are interested in doing something similar on your property, give me a call at the Pine SWCD at 320-384-7431.

PINE CITY PROJECT



Last June, the Lakeside Medical Center and the City of Pine City had a natural buffer installed on their properties on Cross Lake. Lakeside planted the buffer between their parking lot and the hill that was riprapped previously. The area between the hill and the shoreline riprap was also planted. The abandoned road right-of-way was planted by Lakeside and the City of Pine City. Approximately 7000 square feet of buffer was installed. The buffer will filter out nutrients and sediment as water travels down the hill and into the lake. The two to three foot long roots of the native grasses and flowers will also stabilize the soil. The flowers and grasses will also make the area very attractive.

Previously existing turf grass was killed with herbicide. After at least ten days, the dead vegetation was removed, and the area was lightly tilled. A mixed height mesic native seed mix and a short dry native seed mix were used. The seed was broadcast and raked in. A cover crop was also sown with the seed. An erosion control blanket was used on the slope. On the rest of the area, a straw mulch was applied. Next, 2500 native grass and flower seedlings were planted. Maintenance like mowing, spot spraying and hand weeding is often necessary to get the native vegetation established.

The Snake River Watershed Management Board provided partial funding for the project. Prairie Restorations supplied the materials and completed the installation. If you have any questions about this project or are interested in doing something similar, please contact me at the Pine SWCD at 320-384-7431.

Butterfly Gardening

By: Julie Lindner,
NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

One of the things I like about spring and summer is seeing all the different butterflies. In recent years many butterfly species have been declining, piquing people's interest in ways to increase the numbers of butterflies.

One of the best ways to help butterflies is to create habitat; more specifically: food for caterpillars and nectar for butterflies. Most butterflies feed on the nectar of a variety of flowering plants, but many in their caterpillar stage require specific plants, called host plants to survive.

Examples of this are the Monarch butterfly and the Karner Blue butterfly. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on plants in the milkweed family; especially the common milkweed. The Karner Blue butterfly uses Wild lupine throughout all of its life stages, from egg, to larvae (caterpillar), to pupa or chrysalis (only moths form cocoons), to adult butterfly. The Karner Blue is listed as a Federally Endangered Species and most experts



agree that this is primarily due to the loss of habitat. Planting Milkweed and Wild lupine would provide needed habitat for these species.

Butterflies need water, too, just like humans. As caterpillars, their water needs are met by the plants they feed on; as adult butterflies most of their water requirements are met by the nectar they gather from flowers. In both stages, they literally eat and drink at the same time. Although an interesting habit of butterflies is called "puddling". Sometimes you can see butterflies hanging out in groups by mud puddles. This puddling habit is a way they gather water and nutrients from wet areas like mud puddles, birdbaths and shorelines.

You can create a puddling area in your garden by turning over an old, but clean, garbage can lid and filling it with some sand and water. If you are interested in creating more butterfly habitat, you can plant a garden filled with plants that caterpillars and butterflies need to survive. A butterfly garden can be relatively low maintenance and self sustaining by planting native plants.

A combination of Milkweed, Butterflyweed, Wild lupine, Turtlehead, Monarda, Blazing star, Common ox-eye or False sunflower and Coreopsis provides food and nectar plants for many species of butterflies. Many annual flowers

are also excellent nectar plants; Lantana, Penta, Flowering tobacco, Heliotrope, Salvia and Cosmos, are just a few. Some caterpillars and butterflies also use fruiting shrubs like Blueberry and Chokecherry, trees like Birch and Elm, and even herbs such as Dill and Parsley. If you plant a garden to increase butterflies, you can

expect that you may lose some plants due to predation by the caterpillars. Most native and even annual plants will come back once the caterpillars stop eating and move on to form their chrysalis. A combination of flowers, shrubs and trees will ensure the greatest diversity of butterflies.

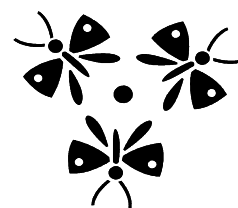
Another important thing to remember about enticing caterpillars and butterflies to your garden; they are extremely sensitive to pesticides and herbicides. If possible, do not use any herbicides or pesticides and instead remove pests and weeds by hand or mechanical means. One last addition you might want to make to your butterfly garden is a butterfly house. These decorative houses can be made easily or purchased. They look like bird houses but instead of a round opening they have slits where the butterflies can escape from the rain or predators.



Not 'Just for Kids' Corner

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Caterpillar
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Luna
Sphinx
Swallowtail
Fritillary
Painted Lady
Hairstreak
Monarch
Sulphur
Admiral
Marigold
Clover
Blueberry
Blazing Star
Sedum
Yarrow
Butterflyweed
Milkweed
Zinnia
Pentas
Lantana
Asters
Cosmos
Petunia
Elm
Birch
Oak
Lilac
Dogwood
Sunflower
Black-eyed Susan



*Pine SWCD
has a
website...
Check it out!*



**WWW.
pineswcd.org**

In this puzzle search for butterfly names, or things associated with butterflies or butterfly gardening. Good Luck!